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PRESS RELEASE **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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ADA DELAYS ENFORCEMENT OF NEW DAIRY CATTLE IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENT

(Phoenix, AZ) – In late 2007, the Arizona Department of Agriculture (ADA) pursued regulatory changes that would require all dairy cattle that enter the state to be identified with an official eartag that allows for tracing to the cattle's herd of birth. This change was initiated to assist efforts in tracing tuberculosis-infected dairy cattle to the source of exposure, most typically the birth herd. The new regulation was approved by the state rulemaking board, the Governor's Regulatory Review Council, and was originally scheduled to become effective May 3, 2008.

The Department's understanding when seeking this effective date was that this provided sufficient time for Arizona dairymen and their suppliers to comply with the requirement. However, after speaking with representatives from the UDA, it seems this was not the case.

UDA spokespersons did not believe that this date provided sufficient time to implement the regulatory changes. Although the Department feels strongly about improving traceability for tuberculosis and other important diseases of dairy cattle, it is opting to delay enforcement of the rule until July 1, 2009, to allow more time for compliance.

The Department will monitor dairy cattle for compliance with herd of birth identification until the date the rules will become enforced. If you have any questions, please contact the State Veterinarian's Office at (602) 542-4293 during normal business hours.